

SURVEY ON EUROPEAN TRENDS OF  
**MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE**

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KAKEN Research Project on  
the Structural Transformation of  
European Democracy in Multi-level Governance  
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The total number of answers are 44: 29 from experts and 15 from practitioners.

Answers from:

Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Portugal,  
Spain, Sweden, UK, Croatia, Serbia, USA

Amiens ville et Amiens metropole (ville et agglomeration), Antwerp,  
Barden-Wuerttemberg, Bordeaux, Carinthia, Catalonia, Flemish,  
Gothenburg, Lisbon, North East England, Saxony, Scotland, Picardie et  
Somme, Vaestra Goetaland.

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# Question 1: Multiple Identities

Which political entity do you feel yourself belonging to? Multiple answers are allowed.

EU.....	24
National Communities.....	33
Sub-national Communities.....	23
Others.....	6

Comments:

- I am European First and Iris Second.
- We are one of the regions that Spain is distributed. Historic reasons justifying the legal and institutional status we enjoyed, different from other regions in Spain. So, the Multi-level Governance is really important for us.
- As I am elected at local level as representative of the Austrian Association of Municipalities, I feel very much connected to local and regional level.
- European, national and local level, all of them.
- There are issues, such as GlobalWarming that have a World Wide political dimension.
- Feel British and Scottish. Do not see this as competitive.
- I am fully convinced that multi-level identity is possible, and working well.
- I believe in root identity and project identity. The nationality would be the root-identity and the building of the European structure would be the project-identity.
- I have multiple national identities. What I belong to depends on the context.
- Like many Scots, I feel a connection both to Scotland and to the UK. I live and work in Scotland, follow Scottish politics (for work) and engage with Scottish policymakers on quite a regular basis. However, it is difficult to understand Scottish politics without using the UK as a key reference point. I also follow UK politics, UK media and have friends and family in the rest of the UK. It is difficult to feel the same sort of connection to a political entity.

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Question 2: A Basic Comcept

Have you ever heard the word Multi-level Governance, and are you well aware of it?

- Have heard and know very well + Have heard and know.....42
- Have heard but do not know well.....2

Comments:

It's now by our engagement the committee of the regions (UE) when we could understand and strengthen this idea.

I am very aware of it but I think governance is often confused with democracy. We may have multi level democratic structures but their governance abilities is antoher question.

I know this from the academic literature.

Seems like a stupid concept to me. But I am aware of it.

Basically it's the end of top down centralized control and the move to an era in which control is devolved and to some extent contested by multiple and overlapping authorities and actors.

I am a scholar of MLG and have published regularly on the subject.

Its a nice idea, but.....

Many Europeans have a multi-level identity but they may not call it like that. Similarly, they know MLG in practice, but not necessarily in theory.

This is a concept I've been working often due to my academic responsibility.

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## Questions 3: Development of European Multi-level Governance --- General Trends

What do you think about the following statement? Since 2009, although national governments have lost their political control in the policies listed below, the EU and sub-national (regional/local) governments have enhanced their influence on them?

(A) Concerning human rights policies, the EU has enhanced its influence.

Fully agree + Agree.....	31
status quo.....	11
Disagree + Strongly disagree.....	1
Don't know.....	1

(B) Concerning human rights policies, the sub-national governments have enhanced their influence.

Disagree + Strongly disagree.....	21
status quo.....	12
Fully agree + Agree.....	9
No answer.....	1
Don't know.....	1

(C) Concerning regulatory policies, the EU has enhanced its influence.

Fully agree + Agree.....	41
status quo.....	2
Disagree + Strongly disagree.....	1

(D) Concerning regulatory policies, the sub-national governments have enhanced their influence.

Disagree + Strongly disagree.....	17
status quo.....	16

Fully agree + Agree.....10

Don't know.....1

(E) Concerning redistribution policies, the EU has enhanced its influence.

Fully agree + Agree.....17

status quo.....15

Disagree + Strongly disagree.....12

(F) Concerning redistribution policies, the sub-national governments have enhanced their influence.

status quo.....19

Disagree + Strongly Disagree.....15

Fully agree + Agree.....10

Comments:

As the budget 2014-2020 was reduced, neither the EU nor the local governments could enhance their influence.

The EU has never been very active in the human rights field. Same thing for redistributive policy; it is simply not the EU's mandate. Regulation is where the EU has taken over authority from national institutions. I note in your question that you do not include the national level which makes the assessment of MLG in regulatory issues difficult.

Not sure there has been much attention to other than economy in this time frame.

Not that human rights law is pursued primarily through the ECHR, which is not the same as the EU. The EU continues to regulate, particularly in areas such as environmental policy. Redistribution may increase as the EU budget increases, but this is still primarily a national government role.

I would contest the assertion in the question that national governments have lost their control.

A bit unclear to me if the sub-national governments here mean in Sweden where I live, or generally in the EU. The former status quo, the latter more difficult to assess

as the variations are large across Europe (as well as across various different local and regional levels, and different policy areas). Some subnational governments have enhanced their influence, others have not, and some have gained less influence (e.g. renationalisation, or in relative terms due to increased EU influence). In total I guess the status quo still provides the best overall assessment.

Due to the global crisis the crisis management appears mostly in specific ways.

The EU has enhanced the regulation about human rights or the environment, but it has also contributed to aggravate social inequalities.

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## Question 4: Development of European Multi-level Governance. Individual Policy Sectors

Since 2009, has the EU enhanced its own influence in the following policy sectors, or have national or sub-national (regional or local) governments kept, newly captured or recaptured political control in them? Multiple answers are allowed.

### (A) Economic regulations

EU.....	32
National Government.....	19
Sub-national Government.....	4
Others.....	1
Don't know.....	2
No answer.....	0

### (B) Fiscal policies

EU.....	29
National Government.....	24
Sub-national Government.....	5
Others.....	1
Don't know.....	0
No answer.....	0

### (C) Social Policies

EU.....	21
National Government.....	29
Sub-national Government.....	10
Others.....	1

Don't know..... 0

No answer.....0

(D) Environmental Policies

EU.....33

National Government.....14

Sub-national Government.....11

Others.....1

Don't know..... 2

No answer.....0

(E) Energy Policies

EU.....24

National Government.....26

Sub-national Government.....8

Others.....1

Don't know..... 2

No answer.....0

(F) Security Policies

EU.....26

National Government.....28

Sub-national Government.....6

Others.....4

Don't know..... 0

No answer.....0



(G) Cultural and Educational Policies

EU.....	15
National Government.....	26
Sub-national Government.....	23
Others.....	1
Don't know.....	1
No answer.....	0

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# Question 5: Cross- and Trans-Border Cooperation

What do you think about the following statement? Since 2009, a retreat can be found in cross-border cooperation between neighbourhood local communities as well as trans-border cooperation among cities or regional governments.

Disagree + Strongly Disagree.....	16
status quo.....	11
Fully agree + Agree.....	9
Don't know.....	8

Comments:

There has been no retreat as there is very little cross-border cooperation between neighbourhood local communities as well as trans-border cooperation among cities or regional governments to begin with.

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# Question 6: Domestic Decentralisation

What do you think about the following statement? Since 2009, a retreat can be found in domestic decentralisation of your country and a re-centralisation can be seen to have appeared.

Disagree + Strongly Disagree.....	17
Fully agree + Agree.....	15
status quo.....	11
Don't know.....	1

Comments:

Please see my Blog Post.

<http://www.brianmeany.ie/local-government-local-democracy-local-relevance/>

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## Question 7: Unequal Development in Europe

What do you think about the following statement? Since 2009, gaps in political power and economic strength among member states of the EU, in particular between larger and smaller member states, old and new member states, regions and specifically cities in your country, have widened.

(A) Concerning gap in political power among member states of the EU

Fully agree + Agree.....	38
status quo.....	3
Disagree + Strongly Disagree.....	2
Don't know.....	1

(B) Concerning gap in economic strength among member states of the EU

Fully agree + Agree.....	41
status quo.....	1
Disagree + Strongly disagree.....	1
Don't know.....	2 *

\* There was two answers to one question.

(C) Concerning gap in political power between larger and smaller member states of the EU

Fully agree + Agree.....	31
status quo.....	7
Disagree + Strongly disagree.....	4
Don't know.....	1
No answer.....	1

(D) Concerning gap in economic strength between larger and smaller member states of the EU

Fully agree + Agree.....	31
Disagree + Strongly disagree.....	6
status quo.....	3
Don't know.....	3
No answer.....	1

(E) Concerning gap in political power between old and new member states of the EU

Fully agree + Agree.....	18
status quo.....	16
Disagree + Strongly disagree.....	5
Don't know.....	5

(F) Concerning gap in economic strength between old and new member states of the EU

Fully agree + Agree.....	23
status quo.....	9
Disagree + Strongly Disagree.....	8
Don't know.....	4

(G) Concerning gap in political power among regions of your country

Fully agree + Agree.....	23
status quo.....	15
Don't know.....	3

Disagree + Strongly disagree.....2

No answer.....1

(H) Concerning gap in economic strength among regions of your country

Fully agree + Agree.....29

status quo.....7

Disagree + Strongly disagree.....5

Don't know.....2

No answer.....1

(I) Concerning gap in political power among cities in your country

status quo.....20

Fully agree + Agree.....18

Disagree + Strongly disagree.....2

Don't know.....4

(J) Concerning gap in economic strength among cities in your country

Fully agree + Agree.....22

status quo.....17

Don't know.....4

Disagree + Strongly disagree.....1

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# Question: Euro-zone Crisis

To what degree have financial and fiscal crises since 2009 damaged European integration?

Breakthrough towards more Europe.....	16
Serious but surmountable by going back to less Europe.....	15
Not seirous and status quo.....	6
Don't know.....	4 *
Lethal.....	2
No answer.....	2

\* There were two answers to one question.

Comments:

It may take time but the flaws of an unsupported common currency as proposed in the Maastricht Treaty have been exposed. I do believe that those flaws will in time bring Europe closer but rather than a common ideal of greater unity it will be from a pragmatic realisation that the Euro has to work.

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# Question: European Democracy

What do you think about the following statement? Since 2009, a retreat in democracy in the EU can be found, because of insufficiency of participatory democracy.

Fully agree + Agree.....	17
Disagree + Strongly disagree.....	16
status quo.....	10
Don't know.....	1

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